



Hamsey Green  
Primary School

# Introduction to the Reception Early Years Curriculum

The children are settling really well,  
thank you for your help and support.



Inkpen Class:  
Mrs Jordan & Mrs Booker



Butterworth Class:  
Miss Kavanagh & Mrs Caruana

# Assessment

- “Baseline Assessments” have all been completed and they give a clear indication of where your child is in their learning and development and what their next steps are.
- Assessments will continue throughout your child’s school life. In Reception these take the form of ongoing observations whilst your child is engaged in independent learning, as well as more formal assessments to judge progress in areas such as number or reading.
- Data is used to inform planning and ensure that your child is making progress and working on the correct level for them. Please remember all children develop at different rates, so try to avoid comparing what they can do against their peers or siblings.
- Data is analysed in school to ensure all children are making good or better progress, and where necessary, additional support may be put in place.
- You will have 2 individual parent meetings with us this year to discuss your child’s learning and then in the Summer Term you will get a written report.
- At the end of the Summer Term we will assess each child to see whether they have achieved “Expected” levels in their Early Learning Goals or if they are still “Emerging” (which means working towards).

# Curriculum = Areas of Learning (AOLs)

There are 17 areas in the Early Years Curriculum:

➤ Personal, Social & Emotional Development:

\*Self-Regulation

\* Managing Self

\* Building relationships

Communication & Language:

\* Listening, attention & understanding

\* Speaking

➤ Physical Development:

\* Gross motor skills

\* Fine motor skills

➤ Literacy:

\* Comprehension

\* Word Reading

\* Writing

➤ Mathematics:

\* Number

\* Numerical Patterns

➤ Understanding the world:

\* Past & Present

\* People, Culture & Communities

\* The Natural World

➤ Expressive Arts & Design:

\* Creating with materials

\* Being Imaginative & Expressive

## So what does that all really cover?

- PSED focusses on rules and routines, playing and sharing, taking turns and becoming increasingly independent. It also covers managing their own feelings and understanding the feelings of others. It includes understanding about healthy choices and managing hygiene.



*How you can help.....*

- ❖ *Make sure your child has all the correct equipment and that it is all named so that they can find it. Encourage them to dress independently. Talk about feelings in different situations*

We only have two rules at school “Kind words & Kind actions”.

We encourage the children to follow these rules to earn Dojos. If a child repeatedly breaks the rules his/her photo goes onto the “Sad Cloud”. If a child deliberately hurts another child, they will go onto the sad cloud and do “time out”. Even though the children are still settling in, we will follow our behaviour policy to keep all children and adults safe at school.

- ❖ *Have high expectations of behaviour at home, for example make sure they don't interrupt when someone else is talking, praise them for being kind and helpful.*
- ❖ *If we raise a behaviour concern, please support us and reinforce this at home.*

- PD focusses on developing fine motor skills (like handwriting, threading, tracing, doing up buttons, using scissors etc) and gross motor skills (like running, catching, throwing, climbing etc).



### How you can help.....

- ❖ Please ensure earrings are removed before school on PE days.
- ❖ Encourage your child to practise dressing and undressing independently.
- ❖ When your child wants to write, please encourage the correct pencil grip and refer to the handwriting guide in their homework packs, to ensure they form the letters correctly.
- ❖ Give your child the opportunity to practise cutting with scissors, holding them correctly.
- **C & L concentrates on listening carefully and speaking in clear, full sentences. It focusses on using a wide range of vocabulary and asking and answering questions.**
- ❖ Make sure you turn off background noise (eg radio, TV) if you really want your child to listen. Make sure you give eye contact when listening to them so that they know they have your attention. Model correct grammar in sentences.

- Literacy covers phonics, reading and writing, as well as comprehension.

The children are already learning the sounds the letters make and how to use them to “blend” (=read) and “segment” (=spell). We read lots of stories daily and discuss what happens, predicting endings and talking about why things occurred.

### How you can help.....

- ❖ Support your child to complete their homework each week.
- ❖ Read to them as often as possible, asking them to spot letters they know and then asking them questions about the story.
- ❖ Encourage any attempt they make at writing, asking them what it says.
- ❖ Sound out words for them to guess e.g “Look at that c-a-t”.
- ❖ Encourage them to tell you what sounds words start with.
- ❖ Play “I spy ” with a limited selection of objects.





- Mathematics covers Number & Numerical Patterns
- We sing number songs, practise counting, recognising and ordering numbers and look at how numbers are made and can be used. We compare and explore patterns and investigate number bonds. The children are also introduced to “Numicon” which is used to teach number.

### How you can help.....

- ❖ Practise counting.....anything and everything!
- ❖ Encourage them to identify numbers....on doors, buses, in shops etc.
- ❖ Ask them to count specific numbers of items for you e.g “Can you get me 4 forks please.”
- ❖ Play traditional board games; throwing a dice and moving a counter.
- ❖ Bake; looking at scales and measuring.
- ❖ Play with different containers in the bath, using language to explain capacity.
- ❖ Identify different shapes in the environment.



- Understanding the World is learning all about ourselves and each other, our pasts and the present. We also regularly explore the environment, especially during our weekly Forest School sessions.



### How you can help.....

- ❖ Talk to your child about things you might see when you're out and about.
- ❖ Encourage them to both ask and answer questions.
- ❖ Ask them to suggest reasons and ideas for things they notice e.g "Why do you think that happened?"
- ❖ Talk about special family events and people.

(We will be asking for photos to share, at different points through the year.)

- Expressive Arts & Design covers art, dance drama/role play, music, building and being creative.



## How you can help.....

- ❖ Give opportunities for your child to make up stories to accompany their play, either role play type "let's pretend" or with small world toys like Lego, toy figures etc.
- ❖ Ask your child to explain how they have made something and how they might improve it.
- ❖ Ask your child to talk about models they create, explaining how all the different parts work.
- ❖ Encourage your child to join in singing and dancing to music.
- ❖ Talk about the type of music and songs they like.



As you can see, there is a lot for your child to learn and experience this year. We teach phonics and maths daily so good attendance is crucial to enable your child to reach their full potential. As the children settle fully, we will be starting learning promptly each morning, so it is also really important that your child arrives at 8:30 each day. Thank you for your support.

Thank you for signing up to Class Dojo. We will post weekly updates on what we are learning. You can also use Class Dojo to message us directly with questions.

Please check Stop Press weekly for dates and information. There is a downloadable app which will update your calendars automatically.

"In a nutshell" is the weekly newsletter that gives you a flavour of the week in school, with reminders about upcoming events.

Please do ask if you have any questions or concerns; remember there's no such thing as a silly question.

Any questions?